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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,562	01/29/2002	Gerard Baccus	1759070	7954

7590

02/02/2004

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EXAMINER

PIERCE, JEREMY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/059,562	BACCUS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeremy R. Pierce	1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in France on July 30, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the French application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gessner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,287,248) in view of Jackson (GB 1,095,393).

Gessner et al. disclose a roofing material comprising a textile backing combined with an aluminum foil that is coated on both sides with a bitumen coating (column 5, lines 54-68). Gessner et al. do not disclose that one coating side comprises a thermoplastic polyolefin resin. Jackson teaches that adding synthetic polymers, particularly polyethylene and polypropylene, to bitumen increases the flexibility of the bitumen at low temperatures (lines 72-78). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include polyolefin resin in the bituminous layers of Gessner et al. in order to increase flexibility of the roofing material, as taught by Jackson. With regard to claim 7, Gessner et al. teach one

bitumen layer attached to the foil opposite the fabric side (column 5, lines 66-68). With regard to claim 8, Jackson discloses that polyethylene may be used (line 78). With regard to claim 9, Gessner et al. teach using aluminum foil (column 5, line 59).

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gessner et al. in view of Jackson as set forth above and further in view of Fullar (U.S. Patent No. 1,248,909).

Gessner et al. does not teach the manner in which the bitumen is combined with the textile support. Fullar teaches that bitumen combined with a textile support may be calendered to create a final product where the bitumen thoroughly impregnates the fabric (page 2, lines 52-98). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to calender the bitumen roofing sheet of Gessner et al. in order to ensure a uniform thickness in the panel, as taught by Fullar.

5. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gessner et al. in view of Jackson as set forth above and further in view of Glassco et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,879,850).

Gessner et al. fail to disclose using textile tape on the lateral edge of the roofing panel. However, use of such reinforcing tape is common in roofing panels, as shown in Glassco et al. (claims 1 and 5). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to reinforce the roofing panel with textile tape along the lateral edge in order to enable better bonding of the roofing panels when applying them to a roof, as taught by Glassco et al.

6. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gessner et al. in view of Jackson as set forth above and further in view of Kassner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,503,853).

Gessner et al. disclose that the fleece is reinforced, but do not disclose the textile to contain a fibrous web and a textile mesh. Kassner et al. disclose a textile layer for reinforcing bitumen. The textile layer comprises a fibrous web and a mesh material, which provides for increased strength (column 2, lines 15-56). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the textile of Kassner et al. in the bituminous product of Gessner et al. in order to provide increased strength to the roofing material, as taught by Kassner et al. With regard to claims 13 and 14, Kassner et al. teach using polymer and glass fibers (Abstract) and Gessner et al. teach using polyester and polyamide fibers (column 2, lines 19-24).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent No. 4,396,665 to Rowe, teaching a roofing laminate comprising a bitumen layer, foil layer, and durable film layer (Abstract) and U.S. Patent No. 5,766,729 to Zanchetta et al., teaching the use of textile tape on the lateral edges of a roofing panel in order to protect the edges from subsequent coatings (Abstract).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy R. Pierce whose telephone number is (571)

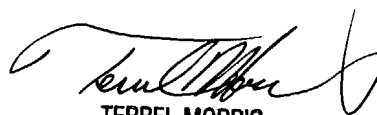
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272-1479. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7-4:30 and alternate Fridays 7-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0994.

JRP
JRP


TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700